Indian Airlines were invited for discussions by Minister of Civil Aviation on 17.01.2007. It was assured to them that there will be no retrenchment and all employees will continue in the merged company. Further, all legitimate employee interests will be protected. A 3 tier Grievance Redressal Machinery has been put into place to address the employee grievances.

Modernization of Non-Metro Airports

3518. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to modernize 35 non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the allocation, airport-wise;

(c) whether Expression of Interest has been received from bidders for development of these airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The works on the development of infrastructure on the airside for strengthening and extension of runway, apron & taxi tracks as also the extension/modification or new construction of the Terminal Building in commensurate with traffic growth are being undertaken by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at 35 select Non-Metro Airports namely Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Udaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Goa, Madurai, Mangalore, Agatti, Aurangabad, Khajuraho, Rajkot, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Patna, Port Blair, Varanasi, Agartala, Dehradun, Imphal, Ranchi, Raipur, Agra, Chandigarh, Dimapur, Jammu and Pune.

The city side development of select airports from amongst these 35 Non-Metro airports will be taken up in the Public Private Partnership (PPP). The cost of development will depend upon design, capacity and requirement of the airports individually or cluster-wise. Total cost of the project has been estimated to be Rs. 4660 crore (aprox.).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.